

Remarks

In the outstanding Official Action for the above-identified patent application, the Examiner:

(1) objected to claims 4 and 6 because of informalities, indicated that the term "Velcro" should be removed because trademark terms are not acceptable in claim language and that the term "hook and loop closures" will suffice, and required appropriate correction;

(2) rejected claims 1-21 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Allbaugh;

(3) rejected claims 1-21 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Cameron;

(4) rejected claims 1, 2 and 9-21 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Cohen-Fyffe;

(5) rejected claims 1, 2 and 7-21 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Aprile;

(6) rejected claims 1-21 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Digangi;

(7) rejected claims 1-3, 5 and 7-21 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Endicott et al.;

(8) rejected claims 22 and 23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Allbaugh; and

(9) rejected claims 22 and 23 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron.

In response to Item 1 above, Applicant has now amended claims 4 and 6 to delete the term "Velcro" so as to remove the trademarked term from the claims. Accordingly, claims 4 and 6 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

In response to Items 2-7 above, Applicant has now amended independent claim 1 to more clearly define the present invention as claimed with respect to the prior art of record.

Claim 1 as amended comprises a high chair clean seat for use as a seat cover on a high chair, the high chair clean seat comprising a central portion forming a substantially horizontal floor having a perimeter, wherein the perimeter of the horizontal floor is configured for disposition within a horizontal seating surface of the high chair, and wherein the substantially horizontal floor of the central portion is configured to cover the horizontal seating surface of the high chair; a continuous plication surrounding the central portion, the continuous plication having a front portion and a back portion extending substantially vertically from the perimeter of the central portion, respectively, the front portion having a

first width substantially equal to a front area of the high chair, the back portion having a second width substantially equal to a second inside width of a back area of the high chair, the continuous plication having a first side portion and a second side portion extending substantially vertically from the perimeter of the central portion, respectively, the first side portion having a third width substantially equal to a third inside width of a first side area of the high chair, and the second side portion having a fourth width substantially equal to a fourth inside width of a second side area of the high chair, wherein the continuous placation is configured to extend in a continuous fashion from the front portion to the first side portion to the back portion to the second side portion to the front portion so as to completely cover interior portions of the front area, the back area, the first side area, and the fourth side area; an inside section and an outside section formed by a fold of the continuous plication in each one of the front portion, the back portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, an uninterrupted apex formed at the fold of the continuous plication having a first length along the front portion between the first side portion and the

second side portion, a second length along the rear portion between the first side portion and the second side portion, and a third length along each of the first side portion and the second side portion between the front portion and the rear portion, the first length of the front portion configured to cover a front rail of the high chair, the second length of the rear portion configured to cover a seatback portion of the high chair, and the third length of each of the first side portion and the second side portion configured to cover a pair of side rails, wherein the uninterrupted apex covers an entire upper perimeter of the high chair; a given area of the front portion of the continuous plication configured with the inside section extending a first distance from the floor portion adjacent the perimeter to the uninterrupted apex, with the outside portion extending a second distance from the uninterrupted apex to a peripheral end, and the second distance being less than the first distance so as to allow unimpeded access to leg openings formed through the outside portion of the front portion between the peripheral end of the outside section and the substantially horizontal floor; and a first inner surface and a first outer surface in opposition to one another on the inside section of

each of the front portion, the back portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, a second inner surface and a second outer surface in opposition to one another on the outside section of each of the front portion, the back portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, wherein the second inner surface of the outside section and the first outer surface of the inside portion are selectively disposable toward one another for each of each of the front portion, the rear portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, and a securing fastener is disposed on the inner surface of the outside section and on the outer surface of the inside section of at least one of the front portion, the rear portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, so as to selectively secure the continuous sleeve to the high chair. (Underlining added for emphasis.)

Applicant believes that Allbaugh discloses a liner for a high chair having a pair of arm portions extending from opposite sides of the seat portion, a front portion extending from a third side of the seat portion, a generally rectangular-shaped back portion extending from a fourth side of the seat portion opposite to the front portion, which together form a generally

cross-shaped liner. Applicant believes that Allbaugh does not disclose a continuous plication but has four flaps (see Fig. 5). Applicant believes that Allbaugh does not disclose a seat cover configured to cover the entire upper perimeter of a high chair inasmuch as the four flaps do not overlap with one another at the top perimeter of the high chair and the four flaps allow access to the chair legs (see Fig. 4). Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that Cameron discloses a high chair cover having four rectangular flaps designed to cover the front rear and side portions of a high chair. Applicant believes that Cameron does not disclose a seat cover configured to cover the entire upper perimeter of a high chair inasmuch as the four flaps allow access to the chair legs (see Figs. 1 and 3-5). Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that Cohen-Fyffe '417 discloses a shopping cart seat cover having a front sleeve and a rear sleeve, and having opposing side portions having discontinuities from the front sleeve and the rear sleeve so as to extend over the sides of a shopping cart. Applicant believes that Cohen-Fyffe '417 does not disclose an uninterrupted apex

configured to cover an entire upper perimeter of the high chair. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that Aprile discloses a shopping cart seat cover having a front panel with a handle fold, a rear flap extending from a rear seat basket fold, and left and right shopping cart side rail cover flaps. Applicant believes that Aprile discloses discontinuities between side rail cover flaps 46, 48 and each of handle fold 22 and rear fold 34 (see Fig. 2). Applicant believes that Aprile does not disclose an uninterrupted apex configured to cover an entire upper perimeter of a high chair. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that Digangi discloses a protective cover sheet having two borders 43, 45 disposed on an outside edge thereof, and having four tabs 21, 22, 24 and 26 extending from the corners thereof, such that the tabs are configured for attachment to the borders (see Figs. 1,2 and 4). Applicant believes that Digangi does not disclose a securing fastener disposed on an inner surface of the outside section and on the outer surface of the inside section of at least one of the front portion, the rear portion, the first side portion, and the

second side portion. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Applicant believes that Endicott et al. disclose a blanket having a single sheet of material configured to cover a seating area. Applicant believes that Endicott et al. do not disclose a central portion forming a substantially horizontal floor having a perimeter, a front portion and a back portion extending substantially vertically from the perimeter of the central portion, respectively, the front portion having a first width substantially equal to a front area of the high chair, the back portion having a second width substantially equal to a second inside width of a back area of the high chair, a first side portion and a second side portion extending substantially vertically from the perimeter of the central portion, respectively, the first side portion having a third width substantially equal to a third inside width of a first side area of the high chair, and the second side portion having a fourth width substantially equal to a fourth inside width of a second side area of the high chair. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-21, which depend either directly or ultimately from independent claim 1, are believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the above-identified reasons.

Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-21 is respectfully requested.

In response to Items 8 and 9 above, Applicant has now amended independent claim 22 to more clearly define the present invention as claimed with respect to the prior art of record.

Claim 22 as amended comprises a method for covering an entire seating area of a high chair, the method comprising providing a high chair clean seat for use as a seat cover on the high chair, the high chair clean seat comprising a central portion forming a substantially horizontal floor having a perimeter, wherein the perimeter of the horizontal floor is configured for disposition within a horizontal seating surface of the high chair, and wherein the substantially horizontal floor of the central portion is configured to cover the horizontal seating surface of the high chair; a continuous application surrounding the central portion, the continuous application having a front portion and a back portion extending substantially vertically from the perimeter of the central portion, respectively, the front portion having a first width substantially equal to a front area of the high chair, the back

portion having a second width substantially equal to a second inside width of a back area of the high chair, the continuous plication having a first side portion and a second side portion extending substantially vertically from the perimeter of the central portion, respectively, the first side portion having a third width substantially equal to a third inside width of a first side area of the high chair, and the second side portion having a fourth width substantially equal to a fourth inside width of a second side area of the high chair, wherein the continuous placation is configured to extend in a continuous fashion from the front portion to the first side portion to the back portion to the second side portion to the front portion so as to completely cover interior portions of the front area, the back area, the first side area, and the fourth side area; an inside section and an outside section formed by a fold of the continuous plication in each one of the front portion, the back portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, an uninterrupted apex formed at the fold of the continuous plication having a first length along the front portion between the first side portion and the second side portion, a second length along the rear portion between the

first side portion and the second side portion, and a third length along each of the first side portion and the second side portion between the front portion and the rear portion, the first length of the front portion configured to cover a front rail of the high chair, the second length of the rear portion configured to cover a seatback portion of the high chair, and the third length of each of the first side portion and the second side portion configured to cover a pair of side rails, wherein the uninterrupted apex covers an entire upper perimeter of the high chair; a given area of the front portion of the continuous plication configured with the inside section extending a first distance from the floor portion adjacent the perimeter to the uninterrupted apex, with the outside portion extending a second distance from the uninterrupted apex to a peripheral end, and the second distance being less than the first distance so as to allow unimpeded access to leg openings formed through the outside portion of the front portion between the peripheral end of the outside section and the substantially horizontal floor; and a first inner surface and a first outer surface in opposition to one another on the inside section of each of the front portion, the back portion, the first side

portion, and the second side portion, respectively, a second inner surface and a second outer surface in opposition to one another on the outside section of each of the front portion, the back portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, wherein the second inner surface of the outside section and the first outer surface of the inside portion are selectively disposable toward one another for each of each of the front portion, the rear portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, and a securing fastener is disposed on the inner surface of the outside section and on the outer surface of the inside section of at least one of the front portion, the rear portion, the first side portion, and the second side portion, respectively, so as to selectively secure the continuous sleeve to the high chair; and positioning the high chair clean seat on the entire seating area of the high chair by placing the central portion, the front portion of the continuous plication, the back portion of the continuous plication, the first side portion of the continuous plication, and the second side portion of the continuous plication over the center seating portion of the high chair, a front portion of the high chair, a back portion of the

high chair, a first side portion of the high chair, and a second side portion of the high chair, respectively, so as to cover the entire seating area of the high chair with the high chair clean seat. (Underlining added for emphasis.)

As discussed hereinabove, Applicant believes that Allbaugh discloses the use of a liner for covering a high chair in which the liner has a pair of arm portions extending from opposite sides of the seat portion, a front portion extending from a third side of the seat portion, a generally rectangular-shaped back portion extending from a fourth side of the seat portion opposite to the front portion, which together form a generally cross-shaped liner. Applicant believes that Allbaugh does not disclose a method for covering an entire seating area of a high chair in which there is provided a high chair clean seat with a continuous placation rather than four flaps (see Fig. 5). Applicant believes that Allbaugh does not disclose the use of a seat cover configured to cover the entire upper perimeter of a high chair inasmuch as the four flaps do not overlap with one another at the top perimeter of the high chair and the four flaps allow access to the chair legs (see Fig. 4). Accordingly, claim 22 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

As discussed hereinabove, Applicant believes that Cameron discloses the use of a high chair cover having four rectangular flaps designed to cover the front rear and side portions of a high chair. Applicant believes that Cameron does not teach or suggest a method for covering an entire seating area of a high chair in which a seat cover is configured to cover the entire upper perimeter of a high chair inasmuch as the four flaps do not overlap with one another at the top perimeter of the high chair and the four flaps allow access to the chair legs (see Figs. 1 and 3-5). Accordingly, claim 22 is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claim 23, which depends directly from independent claim 22, is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the above-identified reasons. Accordingly, allowance of claim 23 is respectfully requested.

In the event that any additional fees may be required to be paid in connection with this submission, please charge the same, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-0221.

Respectfully submitted,



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